

THE DOLL SHOP

—BY—

Helen Langhanke and Lois Morstrom.



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The Doll Shop

By **HELEN LANGHANKE**

—AND—

LOIS COOL MORSTROM

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FRANKLIN, OHIO - DENVER, COLO.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of their appearance.

Madame Eloise

Winifred

Helen

Clerks

Eileen

Mrs. Leonard

Mrs. Cooper

Customers

Fairy Queen

Silver Tone

Light Foot

Tinsel

Fleet Foot

Star

Shining Wings

Fairy Fancy

Glitter

Gleam

Fairies

Soldier Boy Doll

Girl Doll

Boy Doll

Clown

Baby Doll

Highland Laddie

Highland Lassie

French Dolls

Dolls in Shop

Moon Beam
 Mother Goose
 Polly Flinders
 Jack Horner
 Jack
 Jill
 Queen of Hearts
 Knave of Hearts
 Miss Muffet
 Curly Locks
 Marjorie Daw
 Jack-Be-Nimble
 Old King Cole

Mother Goose

Character Dolls

Fiddlers Three

Mistress Mary

Little Boy Blue

Bo-Peep

NOTE:—Madame Eloise may be played by an older person. Clerks and customers may double, taking parts of Mother Goose Dolls. Some of the Mother Goose Dolls may be omitted, or other characters may be supplied. Girls may take the parts of boys, or both boys and girls may take part.

The Doll Shop

The setting and costumes may be as simple or as elaborate as desired. The descriptions given here are only suggestions which may be modified to suit the convenience or desire of the director.

Dances already learned may be utilized.

The following songs and dances can be obtained from the publishers:

Mother Goose in Town—*Protheroe*—75 cents. (Contains all Mother Goose songs mentioned.)

Hinman Dances. (Contains Highland Fling and other dances.) Price, \$1.75.

Ten Traditional Christmas Carols, 10 cents.

Indian Lullaby, 40 cents.

Dream of Fairyland, 40 cents.

THE STORY OF THE PLAY.

The aim of the play is to show the spirit of Christmas as expressed in love of anything, dolls, for instance. The scene is a doll-shop, kept by Madame Eloise, assisted by two clerks. After both customers and clerks have gone, Madame Eloise falls asleep. She is awakened by fairies, who, because of her love for the dolls, bring them to life. The dolls entertain her with the ability of the character which they represent. A little love-scene between a Soldier and a Girl Doll is interwoven here. The play ends with the awakening of Madame Eloise, who discovers her experience to be a dream.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COSTUMES.

Madame Eloise: Modern dark dress, rather elaborate, such as modistes commonly wear. Hair, done high.

Helen and Winifred: White waists and black skirts. Use wraps.

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Leonard: Mrs. Cooper very fashionably dressed, carrying a lorgnette. Mrs. Leonard more simply dressed; street clothes.

Eileen: Pretty hat and coat. Curls.

Fairy Queen: Material, white cheese cloth, voile, batiste, Grecian costume, with long flowing sleeves, trimmed with much tinsel. Hair in curls, band of tinsel. Wand.

Fairies: Grecian costumes—white, trimmed with tinsel for cord. Hair in curls, with band of tinsel.

Soldier Boy Doll: Boy Scout or soldier costume.

Girl Doll: Fancy dress. Pretty hat and cape. Curls.

Boy Doll: Dark knee knickerbockers, or little black velvet short trousers. White blouse with Windsor tie.

Clown: Pierrot costume.

Baby Doll: Baby with bonnet.

Highland Laddie: Regular Highland costume, socks, cap.

Highland Lassie: Regular Highland costume, socks, cap, curls,

French Dolls: Fancy white dress, fancy blue dress, fancy pink dress. Socks, sashes.

Indian (Moon Beam): Regular Indian costume for girl. Bow and arrow. Wig of straight black hair.

Mother Goose: Regulation costume; colonial, with peaked hat.

Polly Flinders: White waist, dark skirt. wide girdle, white apron, Dutch cap, bare feet.

Jack Horner: Eton suit, blouse, Windsor tie, cap. Pie.

Jack; Pail. Dark trousers, blouse, sleeves rolled up, collar turned in; cap.

Jill: Gingham dress, white stockings.

Queen of Hearts: White dress trimmed with red hearts. Suit of Colonial style, with paniers. Possibly a white cape (ermine) lined with red, which can be slipped off. This cape has a high collar. Red hearts pasted around hem. Ankle length. Hair done up high. Crown.

Knave of Hearts: Properties: Tray containing heart cookies. A page's costume or regulation costume.

Little Miss Muffet: Properties: Tuffet, Spider, Bowl and spoon. Fancy dress with wide girdle. Socks, sash, bow in hair to match sash.

Curly Locks: High-waisted dress.

Margery Daw: Summer dress, with a bright sash. Stockings to match sash. Hair in curls.

Jack-Be-Nimble: Knickerbockers, white blouse, velvet jacket. Dark colored stockings. Candle, (large) in a short candle holder.

Old King Cole: Robe (cape), trimmed with ermine white outing flannel with black patches sewed on it.) Some kind of velvet suit, if possible. Gold buckles on ballets. Crown. Pipe (long-stemmed). Bowl.

Fiddlers: Blue knickerbockers, blue jumper over a white waist. Gold color band around bottom of jumper. Belt around the waist of same material. Shield of red and gold in middle of front of jumper. Black stockings. Ballets with gold buckles. Buckles can be made of cardboard and covered with the same material as that used to trim suits. Blue round cap made of same material.

Mistress Mary: Colonial costume with fissue. Basket, with long handle filled with flowers.

Little Boy Blue: Horn. Regulation costume for Boy Blue. Blue socks to match costume.

Little Bo-Peep: Colonial, regular Bo-Peep costume. Hat. Curls. Stockings to suit costume. Crook.

PROPERTIES.

1. Baby doll in buggy.
 2. A small table (1 French doll on table, one on each side.)
 3. Desk with telephone, etc.
 4. Girl Doll after she is brought in.
 5. Big chair.
 6. Real doll in high chair.
- As curtain rises stage is set as follows:

STAGE SETTING.

On raised platforms (right and left), arranged toward the front of the stage stand the life size (alive) dolls. On shelves at rear the real dolls are prettily displayed.

The French doll (alive) stands on table in rear center.

Highland Lad and Lassie (alive) at right of table. Girl Doll, when brought in, occupies center of stage. Real doll in high chair at right front.

The "Dolls" must be trained to hold the pose, as the effect must be that of life-sized dolls. As the fairy touches them each must come to life slowly with motions stiff at first.

(Beginning of the Play.)

CAROLS—PLAYED

(Said behind the curtains.)

Have ye the spirit of Christmas
Within your soul's depth found?
Do you feel the throb of the love
Of folks? Does your heart with joy abound?

Whether ye live in a mansion
Or in a cottage small;
Christmas must bring you humanity's love;
It carries good will for all.

And the spirit pervades in every nook,
In every corner, too,
Of store, or home, or street, or school,
If it is the spirit true.

And what is the spirit of Christmas?
May it bring ye joy, and then
May it carry the old, old message
Of peace, good will towards men.

(Curtain Rises.)

Scene—The Doll Shop.

(Telephone rings; Madam Eloise enters.)

Madam Eloise—Hello. * * This is Mme. Eloise. Oh, yes, Mrs. Leonard. * * Why, no, I looked through the stock but didn't seem to have just what you wanted; so I sent Winifred and Helen to the wholesale dealer's to see if we could get one. *(Knock on door.)* Here they are, now; hold the wire a moment.

Voice outside—Oh, madame, help us. *(Mme. goes to right door, opens it and helps them lift a large doll inside. It is wrapped in paper.)*

Helen—Well, we certainly got a beauty—

Mme.—S-s-h! Unwrap it. Mrs. Leonard is at the phone. *(Goes back to phone. Clerks unwrap doll and ex-eunt left. Come back with wraps off, almost immediately. Converse in whispers at one corner of the room, studying doll while Mme. is talking.)*

Mme.—*(phoning)* Yes, Mrs. Leonard,; so sorry I kept you waiting; but the girls just brought in the doll, and it is beautiful. *(Describes doll.)* Oh, yes, I know you will like it. Can you come this afternoon to see it? You see, it is only 3:30 now; would it be possible for you to be here in about half an hour? * * All right, and bring Eileen, too. She will never suspect. *(Laughs.)* All right, then, I'll expect you about four. Good-bye. *(Hangs up receiver.)*

(Door opens, admitting Mrs. Cooper. Mme. rises to greet her. Clerks busy themselves with dolls.)

Mrs. Cooper—*Mme. Eloise*, I presume?

Mme.—Yes, may I show you something?

Mrs. C.—If you please, I would like a Mother Goose character doll, if you have any; a Bo-Peep, or Little Boy Blue—don't you know?

Mme.—I understand. Helen, take this lady to the second floor and show her the Mother Goose character dolls. (*To Mrs. C.*) Take the elevator right here; Helen will show them to you.

Mrs. C.—Thank you. (*Mrs. C. and Helen apparently wait for elevator. Exit.*)

Mme.—Oh, Winifred, Mrs. Leonard will be here in a few minutes and I want you to show her this doll.

Winifred—Yes, Madame, I shall. (*They move around attending to dolls, fastening a hook and fixing their curls, talking as they work.*)

Mme.—Mrs. Leonard has bought a doll for little Eileen every year for three years for her birthday and for Christmas, and she has every one of them.

Winifred—Yes, I've heard Eileen is very careful with them. She loves them so that she is twice as careful as most girls of her age. Let's see—how old is Eileen? Eight, isn't she?

Mme.—Eight in May. They are such lovely people. I have known them ever since Eileen was a baby. Oh, Winifred, look here; this doll's head is loose; give me that glue and I'll fix it. Poor little doll! (*W. gets glue, some twine, and a piece of cloth; gives them to Mme.*) There, I guess it will be all right. Some one must have bumped into him.

(*Door opens and Mrs. Leonard enters.*)

Mme.—(*rising*) Oh, how do you do, Mrs. Leonard? I'm so glad you came. How do you do, Eileen? (*Eileen courtesies.*)

Mrs. L.—Look at the dolls, dear.

Eileen—May I wheel the baby-don?

Mrs. L.—Isn't this a pretty doll?

Eileen—Oh, I wish Santa Claus would bring me one of these. Isn't she wonderful, mother?

Mme.—Yes, isn't she adorable? These three are French dolls.

Mrs. L.—Can they talk or walk?

Mme.—Oh, yes, indeed. *(She winds them up.)*

Doll—Mama! Papa!

(Mme. winds another. Doll walks stiffly a few steps forward and back.)

Mme.—Did you look at my boy dolls?

(Mrs. L. and Mme.—by-play, ordering the girl doll. Meanwhile, Eileen goes around admiring the dolls.)

Eileen—You are such a nice soldier boy. I'd like to play with you. *(Apparently talks to dolls.)*

(Mrs. C. and Helen enter; Winifred and Mrs. L. converse with each other about the doll.)

Mme.—Well, did you find what you wanted?

Mrs. C.—Yes, just exactly, and I must say, Madame Eloise, I never saw such beautiful dolls in my life, and they are so large.

Mme.—I make a specialty of life-size dolls you know. Helen has made arrangements for the delivery of the doll I suppose?

Mrs. C.—Everything has been arranged. Good afternoon and a Merry Christmas.

Mme.—The same to you. Good-bye.

Mrs. L.—Well, Eileen and I have enjoyed looking at your dolls. Perhaps Santa Claus will choose one of these for her. I wonder?

Mme.—I hope so, especially because your little girl will take such good care of her.

Eileen—I hope so, too.

Mrs. L.—That'll be all then. Good-bye.

Eileen—Good-bye. *(Courtesies.)*

Mme.—Good-bye. *(Exeunt Mrs. L. and Eileen.) (To girls.)* Well, girls, I think you may go, now. It's about

time to close and I have a dinner engagement for tonight, so I think I'll not need you any longer. (*Girls get wraps.*)

Helen—Good night, Madame.

(*Phone rings. Helen answers.*)

Helen—Oh, yes, Mrs. Leonard, you wish to speak to Mme. Eloise.

Mme.—Oh, yes, Mrs. Leonard. The soldier doll. I understand. Don't bother to return.

Winifred—Good night, Madame.

Helen—Good night again.

Mme.—Good night girls.

Mme.—(*Goes to phone.*) Boulevard 908. * Hello, Will you please send a taxi as soon as possible to Madame Eloise's doll shop, Michigan Boulevard? * * All right. (*Touching dolls lovingly.*) Oh, my dolls, my dolls! After Christmas, most of you will be gone. People think I am foolish to talk that way; but I love you all; it seems so hard to part with you, I almost wish you were alive. Oh, wouldn't that be lovely? If only I were sure you would be well taken care of! Why has not every little boy and girl the true spirit of Christmas, the spirit of love and gentleness and kindness? They would not then break the arms and legs and even the heads of my children! I wonder when my taxi is coming. (*Goes to window and sings any Christmas song.*) (*During the second stanza Mme. sits down and falls asleep in a chair near front.*)

(*Silence on stage. Introduction to song played twice. During first introduction, Fairy Queen enters and looks around; then returns, during second introduction bringing in nine fairies. Assume poses about Madame and sing. Music suggested found in "Dream of Fairyland," Price, 40 cents.*)

(*Change Bo-Peep to awake.*) (*Fairy Queen touches Madame with her wand and she rouses; starts up.*)

Mme.—Why—what was that? (*Looks around, falls back to sleep. Fairy Queen touches her again and courtseys in front of her. Mme. awakens.*)

Mme.—Why, who are—you? I must be dreaming.

Queen—I am the Fairy Queen, and see! these spirits are my attendants. We come to serve you, for we bear the Spirit of Christmas and tuck into each tiny stocking some love for others, some gentleness, some thoughtfulness, some carefulness, some merriment, some joy, goodwill, and peace. Each of my attendants carries an abundance of these virtues, and we hope that there will be room for them in every stocking. We come to make you merry while your taxi repairs a punctured tire. What shall it be my subjects?

Silver Tone—Let me see! What does Madame love?

Light Foot—Is it flowers?

Tinsel—Perhaps it's (*mention any flower*).

(*Sing any flower song, throwing flowers about Madame and out into the audience.*)

Fleet Foot—No, there is something else she loves with her whole heart.

Star—I know.

Shining Wings, Fairy Fancy, Glitter and Gleam—We know, we know, the dolls! (*whispered*) the dolls! (*louder*) The dolls! (*Music played softly.*)

(*Fairy Queen touches dolls with wand, and they come to life. Little Soldier Boy Doll runs over to Girl Doll.*)

Soldier Boy Doll—Oh, dear Madame Eloise, do not let us be separated again. We sat side by side so long and loved each other so! Then one day my dear little sweetheart was taken away from me, but today we meet again and we are so happy. Tell us how we can always be together.

Mme.—Listen, my dear little soldier lad, I have good news for you. The lady who bought this little girl telephoned me a few minutes ago that she wanted you too. And you both are to be sent to a beautiful home on Christmas Eve where you will be loved and taken good care of all the rest of your days. (*Soldier and Girl dolls' clasp hands and skip away.*)

Boy Doll—I am so stiff. Oh! help me! (*Soldier and Girl Doll help him down and skip away to positions for dance. Dance.*)

Mme.—I wonder where my character dolls are! I suppose they are asleep upstairs.

Fairy Queen—Come, fairies, we shall see. (*Fairies flit out to music played softly.*)

Clown—You wanted a merry-maker. (*Rows and then dances around stage doing clownish stunts.*)

Mme.—Why are you so quiet back there? Won't you dance for me, too my dear little Highland Lad and Lassie?

Highland Lassie—We'd be glad to, Mme. Eloise.

Highland Lassie—Let's dance the Highland Fling. (*Dance.*)

French Doll—(*Alice Ruth*) I still feel stiff. Please wind me up, somebody. (*Clown winds them up. If necessary for position for dance, have each walk stiffly forward as she is wound.*)

Mme.—I have enjoyed you all more than I can tell. But what is the matter with little Moon Beam? Don't be so shy. (*Takes her by the hand.*) Pretend you are in the beautiful forest. (*Indian sings Indian Lullaby.*) (*Noisy shouting, laughing off stage.*)

(*Enter Mother Goose, followed by rest of Mother Goose characters, except Boy Blue, Jack, Jill, Queen of Hearts, Knave of Hearts, Marjorie Daw, and Fiddlers.*)

(*Song—"Mother Goose Has Come to Town."*)

Mme.—And here's Polly Flinders.

Polly—Yes, I am Polly Flinders,

Never more among the cinders

Do I warm my pretty toes

And I never spoil my nice new clothes.

Mme.—And Jack Horner.

Jack Horner—Here's the plum,

I put in my thumb

And said "What a good boy am I."

(Jack and Jill tumble in. Dance eccentric dance.)

(Queen of Hearts and Knave come strolling in. Miss Muffet must be sitting on the tuffet.)

Queen—And you won't steal any more?

Knave—No, never! Here are the tarts.

Queen—Pass them around, dear. *(All eat tarts. When he reaches Miss Muffet, he exclaims.)*

Knave—Ah! *(Looks at her and sings "Little Miss Muffet." She acts out the song. He dangles spider to scare her.)*

Boy Doll—Curly Locks, I have been looking for you everywhere.

Curly Locks—Oh, you have! Why?

Boy Doll—Haven't you the Spirit of Christmas inside of you? Haven't you a little love for folks—folks—like me—I mean.

Curly Locks—May—be—so—and may—be—not.

Boy Doll—Curly Locks, Curly Locks,

Wilt thou be mine?

Thou shalt not wash dishes

Nor yet serve the swine.

Thou shalt sit on a cushion

And sew a fine seam,

And feed upon strawberries, sugar and cream.

(Curly Locks laughs and gives him both hands. They skip away. Fairies bring in see-saw, with Marjorie Daw directing.)

Marjorie Daw—Come with me, Jack. I'll play with you.

Jack Horner—See-saw, Marjorie Daw.

Marjorie Daw—Jacky shall have a new master.

Jacky must have but a penny a day,
Because he can work no faster.

(She sings See-saw Song.)

(Jack-Be-Nimble puts candle down and jumps over around the stage.)

Mme.—Isn't Jack nimble?

Marjorie Daw—Isn't Jack quick?

All—Jack, jump over the candle-stick!

(King Cole has seated himself on stage. Rising, he sings "Oh, I'm King Cole"; motions to Jack-Be-Nimble and Jack to get pipe and bowl.)

(Chorus repeats song, and Jack-Be-Nimble beckons for Fiddlers and then J. B. N. presents pipe and Jack bowl. Fiddlers Three bow at end of song before King and to audience at the very end, taking positions for dance.)

(Dance follows.)

(Mistress Mary and Highland Laddie walk toward front.)

Highland Laddie—Did you find these lovely flowers in the Highlands, Mistress Mary?

Mary—Oh, no, I picked them in my garden.

Highland Laddie—Oh, Mary, quite contrary,
Pray, how does your garden grow?

Mistress Mary—With silver bells and cockle shells
And pretty maids all in a row.

Fiddlers Three—Where are your pretty maidens?
Were they afraid to come?

Highland Laddie—(Sings "Who Is Afraid of Mistress Mary?" After song, Jack-Be-Nimble jumps around stage, Jack Horner pulls out a plum. Bo-Peep hunts for her sheep.)

Jack-Be-Nimble—I can't keep my feet still. A frolic please! A frolic! Music!

(Eccentric dance by Mother Goose characters.)

Mme.—Where is Little Boy Blue?

Mother Goose—I wonder.

(Chorus sing "Bonnie Boy Blue." During second stanza Bon Blue comes in and poses in center of stage, blowing horn.)

(Bo-Peep starts to cry.)

Mme.—What is the matter, Bo-Peep?

Bo-Peep—I have hunted everywhere. Oh, where are my sheep?

All—Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
Bringing their tails behind them.

(Bo-Peep nods and brightening, smiles.)

Mother Goose—A revel we have had and enjoyed.
Tell us, dear Madame, among the mortals what a world
shall we find? *(Soft music during recitation.)*

Mme.—Ye will see the Spirit of Christmas
Within each soul's depth found;
Ye will know the throb of love
Of folks, for hearts with joy abound.

Whether ye go to a mansion
Or to a cottage small,
Christmas will show ye humanity's love
It carries good will for all.

For the spirit pervades in every nook,
In every corner, too,
Of store, or home, or street, or school,
For it is the spirit, true.

For this is the spirit of Christmas
It brings ye joy and then
It carries the old, old message
Of peace, good will toward men.

(Soft music is played during this speech and continued afterwards. Mother Goose characters vanish and leave fairies on stage who return just before speech. Madame sits down in chair and sleeps. Fairies dance and vanish. Dolls have taken their places. Stage is exactly as it was in the beginning. A honk heard outside. Madame awakens with a start, looks around.)

Mme.—Oh, my taxi! To be sure! *(Turns out light and leaves stage.)*

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